

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting bacteria from growing in a submersible well pump, comprising the steps of:

(a) incorporating one or more biocides in a coating; ~~and~~

(b) applying the biocide-incorporated coating to the internal and/or external surfaces of

one or more components of the pump; then

(c) lowering the pump into the well; and

(d) operating the pump, wherein bacterial growth is inhibited.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (a) comprises mixing the one or more biocides while in a dry state with the coating while in a liquid state.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (a) comprises mixing the one or more biocides while in a granular state with the coating while in a liquid state.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (a) comprises mixing the one or more biocides while in a liquid state with the coating while in a liquid state.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more biocides are in a microscopic time release capsule.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises either by dipping or spraying the one or more components of the pump with the coating while in a liquid state.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the biocide is selected from the group consisting of acrolein, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, sodium dichlorophenol, acetate salts of coco amines, acetate salts of coco diamines, acetate salts of tallow diamines, alkyl amino, alkyl dimethyl

ammonium chloride, alkyl phosphates, coco dimethyl ammonium chloride, paraformaldehyde, sodium salts of phenols, and substituted phenols.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the biocide is selected from the group consisting of bromine, chlorine, sodium hydroxide, calcium sulfate, and salts ~~of various~~ made from different metals.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the metals include copper, arsenic, tin, lead and zinc.

24. (New) A method of inhibiting method of inhibiting bacteria from growing in a submersible well pump, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pump with a housing and at least one rotary pump stage located therein, the pump stage having at least one passage for the flow of well fluid;

(b) applying a coating to the passage with a substance having a biocide that controls the activity of bacteria; then

(c) lowering the pump into the well; and

(d) operating the pump to cause well fluid to flow through the passage of the pump stage and to the surface of the well, the well fluid flowing over the coating, thereby inhibiting bacterial growth.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein step (b) comprises either by dipping or spraying the pump stage with the coating while in a liquid state.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the pump of step (a) comprises a centrifugal pump, the pump stage of step (a) comprises an impeller and a diffuser, and the at least one passage comprises an impeller passage and a diffuser passage; and step (b) comprises applying the coating to the impeller and the diffuser passages.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the pump of step (a) comprises a progressing cavity pump.

28. A method of inhibiting method of inhibiting bacteria from growing in a submersible well pump, comprising the steps of:

providing a centrifugal pump with a housing and a plurality of pump stages located therein, each of the pump stages having an impeller and a diffuser;

applying a coating to at least portions of the impellers and diffusers with a substance that contains a biocide that controls the activity of bacteria; then

lowering the pump into the well; and

operating the pump to rotate the impellers, causing well fluid to flow through the impellers and diffusers in contact with the coating to inhibit bacterial growth on the impellers and diffusers.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the coating is applied either by dipping or spraying the impellers and the diffusers with the coating while in a liquid state.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the biocide is selected from the group consisting of acrolein, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, sodium dichlorophenol, acetate salts of coco amines, acetate salts of coco diamines, acetate salts of tallow diamines, alkyl amino, alkyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, alkyl phosphates, coco dimethyl ammonium chloride, paraformaldehyde, sodium salts of phenols, and substituted phenols.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the biocide is selected from the group consisting of bromine, chlorine, sodium hydroxide, calcium sulfate, and salts made from different metals.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the metals include copper, arsenic, tin, lead and zinc.

